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CRISTÓBAL BALENCIAGA MUSEOA

Cristóbal Balenciaga, Fashion and Heritage

MARCH 24 / 2018
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Fashion and Heritage maintain a paradoxical dialogue juxtaposing the ephemeral with the permanent, objects whose duration is but a moment in time, compared to others which receive their value from the past. A conversation which, nevertheless, converges in Cristóbal Balenciaga.

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Cristóbal Balenciaga, Fashion and Heritage A Conversation

Balenciaga turned out fifty-two years (1917–1969) of uninterrupted work as a creator at the head of his Maisons, leaving behind numerous material and immaterial testimonies which the Museum has had the task of collecting, preserving, researching and exhibiting for almost five years. His professional colleagues, the specialised press and fashion history experts often associate his oeuvre to concepts such as consistency, rigour, perfection or vanguardism, attributes that made Balenciaga a cult couturier in his own time and perpetuate his position as a constant reference in today's fashion.

But what did Cristóbal Balenciaga contribute? What makes him different? What makes him revolutionary, timeless, artistic? Why is his work, his fashion considered as heritage? These are questions on which the chronological discourse of the show aims to reflect, opening a debate with its public.

However, the Cristóbal Balenciaga Museum also approaches this exhibition as an open conversation with Judith Clark, museologist, curator and exhibition-maker, as well as Professor of Fashion and Museology at the London College of Fashion. In this conversation, a second discourse is addressed, implicit in a *mise-en-scène* seeking to reveal the work carried out by museums, not always obvious to the visitor, and to recognise the background knowledge and creation of aesthetic references which earlier exhibitions have contributed to the figure of Cristóbal Balenciaga.

The exhibition is based on the Museum collections with the collaboration of Archives Balenciaga in Paris.

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